

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the Meeting held on Thursday, 17th February, 2022 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr M.D. Smith (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr S.J. Masterson (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Jib Belbase
Cllr M.S. Choudhary
Cllr R.M. Cooper
Cllr K. Dibble
Cllr L. Jeffers
Cllr Mara Makunura

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Nem Thapa

22. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th December, 2021 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

23. PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS

The Committee welcomed Dr Alice Earl and Dr Louise Payne, Clinical Directors for Farnborough and Aldershot respectively, who were in attendance to report on local primary care services, impacts of the pandemic, future working arrangements and how the Primary Care Networks (PCN) and the Council were working together.

Dr Payne, provided an overview on Primary Care Networks and it was noted that a PCN was a group of doctors' practices working together with other healthcare providers and appropriate organisations to deliver integrated services to residents. It was noted that the Aldershot PCN covered 48,000 patients and Farnborough PCN covered 60,000 patients.

In Aldershot, there were four practices involved in the PCN, Princes Gardens Surgery, The Border Practice, The Cambridge Practice and The Wellington Practice. The executive, and leadership and strategic management structure included, the four Practice Managers alongside the Clinical Director (Dr Payne) and a PCN Manager. Below that, additional roles within the structure included medicine management, mental health and wellbeing, care co-ordination, first contact physio and paramedic practitioners. These roles were provided through the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) a fund established to support GP practices to address the needs of their patients.

In response to the pandemic, it was noted that the PCNs had had to suspend contracts on some services to ensure patients were supported throughout. However, some services continued to be provided such as general medical services to patients and screening/immunisation services. Collaborative working had played a part in many responses to the pandemic, including the setting up of the vaccination sites in both towns (99,323 vaccines administered to date), working together across Aldershot and Farnborough PCN's on addressing mental health matters resulting in the recruitment of a care co-ordinator funded through pooled resources, working with the Council and other partners with the aim to reduce health inequalities across the Borough and forging and building on relations within the community, in particular with the Nepali community.

Dr Earl reported on the situation in Farnborough and it was noted that, by offering more digital services throughout the pandemic, patient appointments had risen by 20%. In addition, patients had got used to seeing appropriate specialists under the additional roles scheme to address their needs. With the return to business as usual, it was noted that the PCNs would continue to develop on the experiences learnt during the height of the pandemic. However, it was advised that "return to normal" would require an element of catch up, through the management of patients whose care had been affected by the pandemic. Priority cohorts would also be targeted, with a particular drive around those with mental health issues and learning difficulties, hypertension and diabetes, amongst others. The Committee also noted that each of the six practices within the Farnborough PCN had a Mental Health Support Practitioner working within the practice to help support and improve people's mental health. The care co-ordinator helped to guide people to who was best placed to support their needs, freeing up the doctors to treat those with more complex issues.

The Committee discussed the presentation and raised a number of issues. These included:

- Face to face appointments – it was noted that face to face appointments had not stopped during the pandemic. However, they were not freely available to be booked by patients and were issued via a triage system based on need/demand. Currently 60% of appointments were carried out face to face compared to around 80% before the pandemic. Many patients had embraced the virtual/telephone consultations on offer. Moving forward it was noted that the PCN were using and would continue to use internet/phone-based appointment systems to address capacity issues. Nevertheless, it was considered important to offer choice to patients but not allow them to dictate/demand how they would be seen.
- Patient lists/demand – it was noted that demand outweighed the provision across the Borough, but the PCNs were working with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on the building and projected population plans to address the issue and expand as required moving forward.
- Care Homes – it was noted that care homes had suffered during the height of the pandemic and during May 2020 a local GP had stayed over, at a

particular site, on a number of occasions, to address the needs of extremely unwell patients. Once the vaccination programme had commenced in January 2021, admissions to hospital had reduced and outbreaks had become more contained.

- Cancer patients – it was noted that there had been no backlog in cancer care; throughout the pandemic cancer care had always been a priority, with referral through to diagnosis/commencement of treatment generally being achieved within a four week period.
- Young peoples' mental health – It was noted that schools were starting to work jointly with Mental Health Integrated Care Services to address mental health issues within the education setting. In addition, through the additional roles opportunity, the local PCNs were looking to employ mental health practitioners, but it was noted that there was currently a national shortage of qualified practitioners to fill these roles.

From the Council's perspective, Mr Colver advised that health was now a very important part of the Council's work and suggested that, where the Council was adding value, was working with the PCNs and the CCG on the wider determinants impacting on health.

The Chairman thanked Drs Earl and Payne for their presentation.

24. EDUCATION SERVICES IN RUSHMOOR

The Committee welcomed County Councillor (CC) Roz Chadd, Executive Lead Member for Education and Skills, who was in attendance to provide an update on attainment levels in 2021, prospects for 2022, skills issues/gaps and collaboration with district authorities.

CC Chadd, gave an overview of the primary schools in the Borough, of which there were 30, four of which were academies. In relation to the OFSTED ratings, 83% rated as "good" locally compared to 85% nationally and 43% were rated "outstanding" compared to 21% nationally. Four schools "required improvements", one of which was an academy, the three maintained schools were being supported by Hampshire County Council (HCC) and it was hoped that each would achieve a "good" OFSTED rating when next reviewed. It was noted that no schools were rated "inadequate" in the Borough.

With regard to the attainment levels in the primary schools, it was noted that no formal examinations had taken place during the pandemic, however key stages (KS) 1&2 levels were strong in comparison to national data. Across Hampshire, Rushmoor had outperformed all districts with the exception of Hart and Winchester at KS1&2 in 2019.

With regard to the secondary schools, it was noted that there were three secondaries and one all through school. Fernhill was currently receiving support as the last OFSTED rating had been "requires improvement". A lot of work had been put in by the school and HCC officers and the school were currently awaiting another

inspection where they hoped to gain a “good” rating. In 2020, Alderwood, the local all through school, had achieved a “good” OFSTED rating alongside Cove and Wavell schools.

The attainment levels in the secondary schools was noted and it was advised that an improvement had been realised between the 2018 and 2019 results. The pass rate of grade 4 or above for English and Maths had been 58% compared to the national average of 63%. Attainment 8, which is used to measure how well children were doing at KS4, was currently at 4.2 compared to a 4.6 national average.

The Committee reviewed the specialist school provision in the Borough, which included Samuel Cody, Henry Tyndale and Rowhill Schools. It was noted that Samuel Cody, which achieved a “good” rating from OFSTED in 2017, was due to expand in September 2022, offering an additional 90 places over a phased three year period. The school supported children with moderate learning disabilities. Henry Tyndale, the specialist school for children aged 2-19 with more complex learning disabilities had 155 pupils and had achieved an “outstanding” OFSTED rating in 2016. The Henry Tyndale early years setting operated out of Cherrywood School under a joint headship with shared knowledge and expertise. Rowhill School was the setting for the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). PRU catered for secondary aged children who had been permanently excluded, were at risk of exclusion, were medically unwell or suffered from high levels of emotional needs. It was advised that referrals could be made from Rushmoor, Hart and East Hampshire. The unit offered intensive short term interventions to help pupils return to mainstream schooling. The most recent OFSTED report in 2018 had considered the school “good”.

The Committee was advised of the mental health support provision in schools. It was noted that mental health issues in young people had increased during the pandemic and, to help address the rising issues, an initiative had been implemented to provide mental health support teams within schools. HCC had been successful in the bidding process for Rushmoor and secured funds to recruit mental health professionals to work within the Borough’s schools although recruitment had been a challenge. It was noted that currently there was a team based in one school in the Borough which supported other schools through engagement with pupils and headteachers. It was also advised that schools could use their funding to engage outside organisations to address mental health issues within their settings through various methods such as plays and workshops.

The Committee discussed the wider impacts of the pandemic and noted that the focus for curriculum catch up within schools was primarily on the transition years (Years 2-3 and 6-7). It was also noted that HCC continued to advise schools to follow Department of Education guidelines on COVID measures, where appropriate.

It was explained that HCC continued to look for additional provision for Special Educational Needs (SEN) settings and it was noted that a consultation was underway for a satellite provision at Park Primary for Henry Tyndale. An autism unit at Pinewood Infants which would follow through to Guillemont Junior School.

The Committee noted what Rushmoor could do to support schools and skills within the Borough. CC Chadd recommended that Rushmoor could join the newly

established Hampshire Regeneration and Growth Partnership, encourage staff and councillors to take up roles as school governors and ensure local businesses engage with the community by offering apprenticeships which could now be supported by the HCC apprenticeship levy.

CC Chadd also gave an overview of Children's Services. It was noted that Children's Services had seen a 15-20% increase in initial contact since the start of the pandemic, this however had not been reflected in the numbers of children moving into care, which had remained static. In response to a query, it was advised that a social worker's workload depended on experience. With regard to Children's Homes it was noted that only one had been closed during the pandemic with a small number of children being moved around to ensure safety. In addition, there was a national push on the recruitment of foster carers which were in short supply across the country.

The Committee discussed the presentation and in response to a query regarding home learning during the pandemic it was indicated that as children from deprived areas had generally been in school during the pandemic it was felt that it had been children from middle income families, who may be time poor, that had suffered more. As teachers understood best what pupils needed most, intervention would be led by them. Further queries regarded children crossing borders to attend school in some areas, it was advised that this was balanced with similar numbers coming into Rushmoor to attend school from adjoining counties. It was explained that SEN schools had no catchment areas and could be attended by pupils from outside the Borough.

The Chairman thanked CC Chadd for her presentation and stated that the Committee would welcome an update following the 2022 examinations on attainment levels in Rushmoor's schools.

25. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee **NOTED** the current Work Plan.

A request was made for a report on performance data for the Property Services team within the Council at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the Meeting held on Thursday, 7th April, 2022 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr M.D. Smith (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr S.J. Masterson (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Jib Belbase
Cllr M.S. Choudhary
Cllr R.M. Cooper
Cllr K. Dibble
Cllr L. Jeffers
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr Nem Thapa

26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th February, 2022 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

27. REGISTERED PROVIDERS TASK AND FINISH GROUP - ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Cllr Mrs D.B. Bedford, Chairman of the Registered Providers Task and Finish Group and Ms Zoe Paine, Strategy and Enabling Manager, introduced Report No. EPSH2211 on the work of the Group during 2021/22.

Cllr Bedford, advised that no major problems had been identified with the three Registered Providers (RP) that had been scrutinised during the year; VIVID, Stonewater and Metropolitan Thames Valley. However, site visits continued to be restricted due to the pandemic and the Group had had to put trust in the views of the RPs, Officers and residents. It was also noted that, when issues did arise or complaints were made by residents, they were generally dealt with quickly.

In addition to the programmed reviews, it was noted that a number of issues had arisen with A2 Dominion during the year and the Group had requested a meeting with them before the end of April, 2022 to address the issues.

A request was made to review the option of site visits moving into the 2022/23 Municipal Year and to consider the option of drop in visits. It was also noted that Members should be encouraged to feed any issues from residents raised with them directly into the Group.

Ms Paine, commented on the direct access reporting system for councillors, which gave councillors the option to report issues directly on behalf of their residents. This system was now available with both VIVID and Metropolitan Thames Valley. The contact details would be circulated to all Members.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the work of the Registered Providers Task and Finish Group during 2021/22 and **APPROVED** the preparation of a programme of reviews for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Bedford and Ms Paine for their report.

28. **CABINET CHAMPIONS**

The Committee welcomed the three Cabinet Champions, Cllr Abul Chowdhury (Equalities and Diversity Champion), Cllr Jacqui Vosper (Armed Forces Champion) and Cllr Mara Makunura (Health and Wellbeing Champion) who had been invited to give reports on their work during the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

(1) Equalities and Diversity Champion – Cllr Chowdhury gave an overview of some of the work he had been carrying out during the year, to help build relations with the Borough's diverse communities, increase access to services and instil trust.

- A range of meetings with different community groups had been undertaken to hear their stories and experiences about living locally and accessing local services. Groups represented were from the Nepalese, Fijian, the Cameroon, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Muslim communities and several local church groups representing other BAME communities.
- Issues identified at these meetings were generally around funding and grant assistance to carry out activities within the different communities, Cllr Chowdhury had been able to signpost groups to funding and grant schemes through the Council's networks.
- More complex issues had also emerged for some individuals within these diverse communities, including suitable housing – large enough properties to house large families and understanding of the English language to access services digitally. Cllr Chowdhury reported that he had frequently been called on to assist members of the communities with day to day tasks relating to language or digital access and was in discussion with Officers on how the community could be supported more with these issues.
- It was also noted that several cases of discrimination had been reported during the Municipal Year via the Champion and, with Officer support, those affected had been guided and supported.

(2) Armed Forces Champion – Cllr Vosper reported on the activities carried out as part of her role:

- It was noted that the Armed Forces Act had received Royal Assent which enshrined the Armed Forces Covenant in law. Cllr Vosper had been involved in the development of the provisions contained in the Act through her work in the All Party Armed Forces Covenant Legislation Parliamentary Group.
- A review was underway of the structure and working arrangements of the North Hampshire Covenant Partnership. It was felt that a conference could be held 1-2 times a year which would be attended by a range of stakeholders within the military and civilian communities.
- Through the response to the pandemic, joint working between the Military, Council and NHS had enabled improved engagement with service personnel and their dependents.
- It was reported that the Veterans' Hubs in both Aldershot and Farnborough had recently reopened. Through working with the Veteran's Hub in Camberley lessons had been learnt to help improve attendance and identify activities to be carried out locally. Cllr Vosper advised that veterans were often difficult to locate as they didn't want to be found. Work was underway to identify service personnel coming up to retirement/leaving the armed forces to allow for early engagement.
- The Garrison Community Hub had recently been refurbished, the idea for the hub was to become a centre for local civilian and military communities to come together.
- Cllr Vosper reported on the school examination achievements of military children. It was noted that, at secondary school, achievement levels were in line with children from non-military backgrounds, with the exception of GCSE English grades, which were lower and at A-level, grades dropped by 10-15% overall. It was also noted that military children attending state schools were less likely to go on to university than their non-military counterparts. Cllr Vosper felt that these statistics should be better understood.

The Committee were also advised of an initiative to introduce "Pupil Passports" for military children which would detail their education to assist when moving between schools.

- Cllr Vosper had attended a number of events during the year, these included:
 - The Cameroon Festival
 - The Bula Festival
 - Remembrance Sunday events
 - The Community Carol Services – an event organised jointly between the Council and the Garrison
 - The 50th Anniversary on the IRA bombing of the Officers' Mess in Aldershot

(3) Health and Wellbeing Champion – Cllr Makunura advised on the focus of her role:

- A range of initiatives had been worked on, in conjunction with Council Officers and key organisations such as Citizens' Advice and Rushmoor Voluntary Services. These included:
 - Health and wellbeing signposting
 - The Grub Hub
 - Increased physical activity
 - Community gardens and Men's Shed

- Cllr Makunura reported on the work undertaken to establish the Rushmoor Accessibility Access Group. Working with key community groups, the Group had been established to raise the profile and awareness of access and inclusion. The Group's aim would be to represent the views of people with disabilities and accessibility issues in order to provide support and advice on key work areas such as planning, and regeneration. Cllr Makunura had been keen to develop the work of the Group further to deliver improvements for people with disabilities. A number of initiatives had been identified for 2022/23, should the role continue, these were:
 - Accessibility at polling stations
 - Increased interaction and communication about access issues with local organisations and businesses
 - Improved local environment to ensure equal access for all

- In response to the pandemic, joint working with the NHS and local Primary Care Networks had enabled improved engagement and partnership working.

- A number of events have been held throughout the year, these included:
 - Delivery of the Heritage Trails and promotion of community walks
 - The "We Can Do It" campaign to promote physical activity
 - Wellness walks to encourage social interaction and reduce loneliness

- Forthcoming activities included The Garrison Community Health Fair on 26th May, 2022 and a project within schools to help address mental health issues supported by B&Q

The Committee discussed the activities of the Champions and a number of suggestions were made, including:

- Consideration be given to attendance at the first meeting of the Committee in the new Municipal Year, to outline plans for the forthcoming year to assist Members to measure effectiveness of the roles and set performance - these would then be reviewed at the last meeting of the Municipal Year
- Consideration be given to change the name to "Council Champion"
- More liaison between Champions and Shadow Champions
- Greater communication with all Members on the work being undertaken, in particular with Ward Members when work impacted their Ward

In response to a query regard the Rushmoor Accessibility Access Group it was agreed that elected Members be given the opportunity to attend and raise awareness of the Group. It was noted that the Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing had also been approached to add the Group to the list of consultees for planning matters.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Champions for their reports And it was agreed that the arrangements would be discussed at the next meeting of the Progress Group.

29. **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN**

The Committee received a presentation from Andrew Colver, Head of Democracy and Community, on progress with the Climate Change Action Plan and proposals for the future.

The Committee was apprised of the background to the work on the Climate Change Emergency declared in 2019, and the philosophy and development of the Strategy Statement and Action Plan. It was noted that, the Action Plan was currently being reviewed in view of the Council's Carbon Footprint findings and new Government policies. The process being undertaken to carry out the review had been to establish a programme of projects that were then assessed by assessing: projects versus business as usual, ranking into achievable deliverables and impacts, assigning projects against budget/resource and prioritising top actions by service. It was also advised that the Climate Change Action Plan would be closely aligned with the emerging Green Infrastructure Plan currently being developed.

The Action Plan highlighted five priority areas with 90 actions spread over three different time frames (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2023 onwards). The priorities included, energy performance, community engagement, planning and delivery of adaptation and mitigation measures in regeneration projects, introduction of a food waste service and waste minimalisation scheme and, supporting the Council's new ways of working project.

The Committee was advised on actions that had been delivered to date, these included:

- Development of a climate change funding stream database
- Provisions within the Procurement Strategy established to ensure sustainable and ethical procurement
- Introduction of food waste scheme
- Participation in schemes such as the iChoser solar panel scheme and the LAD2 funding scheme
- Webpage update
- Schools outreach – Eco Schools and young people competition
- Southwood tree planting and edible hedgerow planting on the Blackwater Valley Path
- Membership of the Sustainable Business Network
- Joint working with Hart District Council

The Committee reviewed the reserve fund spend to date and it was noted that currently about half of the fund had been allocated. It was noted that a Climate Change apprentice had been employed within the Democracy and Community Team and this role had been funded through the reserve fund. Other spend to note was the work within schools and pump priming resources for EV Infrastructure projects.

The Committee noted that Rushmoor was to join an EV Charging Infrastructure trial with Hampshire County Council. The scheme was currently operating in Winchester and Eastleigh and the trial covered both on street and car park EV charging points. It was hoped that the trial would commence in Rushmoor later in the year.

A number of green events were scheduled to take place in the coming months, this included a Tour de Moon event in June, which was an initiative aimed at young people and consisted of a convoy of electric vehicles and floats housing, amongst others, a pop up cinema and recording studio. A sustainability fair and big green week were also planned for September, 2022.

In response to a query regarding the “on hold” and “removed” items that had been identified in the Action Plan, it was advised that officers had gone through a process of identifying projects within the programme that were resource intensive and/or had a low impact, the main focus for projects were ones that achieved the greatest carbon emission reduction. Details of the identified projects would be shared and discussed with the Climate Change Working Group, in the first instance.

The Chairman thanked Mr Colver for his presentation and it was agreed that the Progress Group should consider any specific areas in the Climate Change Action Plan for further scrutiny.

30. **WORK PLAN**

The current Work Plan was **NOTED**.

The Committee thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to scrutinise a wide range of issues during the year and the way the meetings had been handled.

As this was the last meeting of the Municipal Year it was also noted that the Annual Report would be drafted and shared with the Chairman in advance of the Council Meeting on 28th April, 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.28 pm.